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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - NORTH KOREA - SIX PARTY TALKS
LEBANESE ELECTIONS GUANTANAMO EU AFFAIRS - TURKEY
PARIS - TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

- [1](#). NORTH KOREA - SIX PARTY TALKS
- [2](#). LEBANESE ELECTIONS
- [3](#). GUANTANAMO
- [4](#). EU AFFAIRS - TURKEY

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

THE AFTERMATH OF THE LIBERATION OF FLORENCE AUBENAS STILL CAPTURES THE MOST FRONT-PAGE ATTENTION TODAY. THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE FRENCH HOSTAGE WAS RELEASED LEAD MANY COMMENTATORS TO WONDER ABOUT HER CAPTORS, ABOUT THE ROLE OF SYRIA IN HER LIBERATION, AND ABOUT WHETHER A RANSOM WAS PAID. LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION, LIKE YESTERDAY'S LE FIGARO, REPORTS ON "SYRIA'S SHADY ROLE IN THE KIDNAPPING." THE ROLE OF PUBLIC AND MEDIA SUPPORT FOR HOSTAGES IS ALSO ANALYZED, WITH SOME COMMENTATORS ARGUING THAT PUBLIC SUPPORT BOOSTS THE HOSTAGES' MORALE, WHILE OTHERS CONTEND THAT IT GIVES HOSTAGE-TAKERS HIGHER VISIBILITY. LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE CARRIES AN INTERVIEW OF HUSSEIN HANOUN, AUBENAS'S IRAQI GUIDE AND INTERPRETER, TITLED: "OUR KIDNAPERS WERE ANTI-AMERICAN ISLAMISTS."

THE TIME MAGAZINE REPORT ON GUANTANAMO IS THE SUBJECT OF TWO ARTICLES, IN LE FIGARO AND LA CROIX ABOUT "INTIMIDATION TECHNIQUES" AND "AMERICA'S IMAGE WAR." (SEE PART C)

THE RE-ELECTION OF MOHAMMED EL-BARADEI IS NOTED IN LE FIGARO: "HE STARTED OUT WITH A TERRIBLE HANDICAP: THE IRE OF WASHINGTON'S 'HAWKS.' FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS HE WAS THEIR BETE NOIRE FOR HAVING AIRED HIS DOUBTS ABOUT THE WAR IN IRAQ. NOW THAT HE HAS BEEN RE-ELECTED, EL-BARADEI KNOWS WHAT IS AT STAKE: REVIVE THE NPT AND FORCE IRAN AND NORTH KOREA TO FALL IN STEP. AND HE MUST DO THIS WITHOUT ALIENATING THE U.S."

THE SITUATION WITH NORTH KOREA IS THE SUBJECT OF A MAJOR REPORT IN LA CROIX, WHICH CONTENDS THAT WASHINGTON "HAS SOFTENED ITS POSITION VIS-A-VIS PYONGYANG." (SEE PART C)

THE PARIS AIR SHOW CONTINUES TO BE WIDELY COVERED, WITH THE BOEING-AIRBUS COMPETITION SERVING AS BACKDROP. POPULAR RIGHT-OF-CENTER FRANCE SOIR HEADLINES "WHEN FRANCE CHALLENGES AMERICA." THE COMPETITION BETWEEN THE A350 AND B787 IS A MAJOR STORY IN LE FIGARO ECONOMIE, WHICH QUOTES AIRBUS PRESIDENT NOEL FORGEARD: "THE A350 WILL FLY WITH OR WITHOUT PUBLIC SUBSIDIES."

LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE CARRIES A FRONT-PAGE OP-ED BY FORMER FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON FRANCOIS BUJON DE L'ESTANG TITLED: "A POLITICAL SPACE STRATEGY: TIME FOR MAKING DECISIONS." "THE U.S. HAS OPERATED A MAJOR REVOLUTION IN MILITARY AFFAIRS WHERE SATELLITE SPACE SYSTEMS PLAY A MAJOR ROLE: SPACE OPERATIONS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF AMERICA'S DETERRENCE SYSTEM. THERE IS A GAP BETWEEN FRANCE AND EUROPE ON ONE SIDE AND THE U.S. ON THE OTHER, IN MATTERS OF STRATEGY AS WELL AS PROGRAMS. THIS SITUATION EXPOSES FRANCE TO THE RISK OF NOT BEING ABLE TO CONCRETELY PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL POLICE OPERATIONS. THERE IS A NEED FOR A REAL DUAL SPACE STRATEGY THAT CAN HELP OUR FORCES AND BE ATTRACTIVE TO OUR PARTNERS. BUT IT IS OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR FRANCE TO OPERATE THIS EFFORT ON ITS OWN. THIS MUST BE A COMBINED EUROPEAN EFFORT INTEGRATING THE 'CIVILIAN-MILITARY DUALITY.' IT WILL BE THE TASK OF THE EUROPEAN DEFENSE AGENCY TO RELAY THE NECESSARY POLITICAL IMPETUS. THE STAKES IN TERMS OF DEFENSE STRATEGY AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ARE MAJOR. UNLESS DECISIONS ARE MADE RAPIDLY, THE GAP WITH THE U.S. WILL BECOME EVEN GREATER."

GENERAL AOUN'S ELECTORAL VICTORY IN LEBANON IS ONE OF TODAY'S INTERNATIONAL STORIES (SEE PART C), WHILE LIBERATION CARRIES AN OP-ED TITLED "TURKEY: AN ALIBI FOR THE 'YES' AND 'NO' VOTERS TO THE REFERENDUM." (SEE PART C)

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

NORTH KOREA - SIX PARTY TALKS

"SOUTH KOREA AND U.S. WANT TO REASSURE PYONGYANG"

DORIAN MALOVIC IN CATHOLIC LA CROIX (06/14): "IT IS CLEAR THAT THE TONE HAS CHANGED. AFTER THE SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN SOUTH KOREA AND THE U.S., THE IMPRESSION IS THAT THE DIFFERENCES HAVE BEEN ERASED, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING, IN ORDER TO FACILITATE NORTH KOREA'S RETURN TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. THE U.S., WHICH FOR THE PAST WEEKS HAS BEEN PARALYZED IN ITS APPROACH, SEEMS TO SHOW A DESIRE TO SOFTEN ITS APPROACH AND TO STOP ITS THREAT AND VERBAL ABUSE. A NEW STRATEGY APPEARS TO BE IN THE WORKS IN ORDER NOT TO PROVOKE PYONGYANG. THUS PRESIDENT BUSH HAS STOPPED TALKING ABOUT COERCIVE MEASURES. AND ADDRESSED KIM JONG-IL AS 'SIR.'"

LEBANESE ELECTIONS

"FRAGILE LEBANON"

GUILLAUME GUIBERT IN CATHOLIC LA CROIX (06/14): "THE ATTENTION FOCUSED ON LEBANON CANNOT BE EXPLAINED BY EITHER ITS SIZE OR THE SIZE OF ITS POPULATION. ITS BOUNDARIES WITH ISRAEL AND THE MANY PALESTINIAN REFUGEES LIVING IN LEBANON ARE A PARTIAL EXPLANATION. BUT IT IS MAINLY THE DIVERSE RELIGIOUS MAKE UP OF ITS POPULATION, WHICH IS MAINLY MUSLIM, THAT EXPLAINS WHY LEBANON IS SEEN AS AN EXAMPLE THAT CAN PROVE WHETHER A PEOPLE MADE UP OF CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS CAN, OR NOT, LIVE IN PEACE. THE WIND OF HOPE FOR NATIONAL UNITY THAT BEGAN THIS SPRING DID NOT SURVIVE THE TEST OF THE BALLOTS. THE POLITICAL ARRANGEMENTS THAT HAVE LED TO AN ELECTORAL VICTORY WEAKEN THE COUNTRY. AOUN'S VICTORY WAS ACHIEVED THANKS TO HIS ALLIANCE WITH SUPPORTERS OF THE SYRIAN NEIGHBOR. THIS IS A SAD PARADOX FOR THE MAN WHO, FOR THE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS, SYMBOLIZED RESISTANCE TO DAMASCUS."

"AOUN'S NEWS ALLIES"

ISABELLE DELLEBRA IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (06/14): "GENERAL AOUN, WHO DID NOT MANAGE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OPPOSITION, DECIDED TO GO IT ALONE, BUT NOT TOTALLY ALONE. IN REALITY HE HAS MADE A PACT WITH PRO-SYRIAN FORMER LEADERS WHO LAST MARCH WERE PARADING IN THE STREETS IN SUPPORT OF SYRIA."

GUANTANAMO

"NEW QUESTIONS ABOUT GUANTANAMO INTERROGATION METHODS"

PHILIPPE GELIE IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (06/14): "THE DEBATE IN THE U.S. OVER METHODS USED IN GUANTANAMO WAS SLOW TO START BUT IT IS NOW LAUNCHED IN THE POLITICAL ARENA. WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF A CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION BEING OPENED. WHILE THE PENTAGON HAS DECLARED THAT ITS PRISON IN CUBA 'HAS HELPED TO SAVE AMERICAN LIVES,' THE REVELATIONS MADE IN TIME MAGAZINE LEAD ONE TO AMBIGUOUS CONCLUSIONS: WHILE IT IS CLEAR THAT THE DETAINEES IN GUANTANAMO ARE NO ANGELS, THE METHODS USED BY THE ARMY ARE UNJUSTIFIABLE."

EU AFFAIRS - TURKEY

"TURKEY: AN ALIBI FOR THE 'YES' AND 'NO' VOTERS TO THE REFERENDUM"

MICHEL WIEVIORKA IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (06/14): "A PROCESS OF CLARIFICATION CONCERNING TURKEY AND ITS REJECTION MUST BE CLARIFIED. THE FIRST STEP IS TO WEED OUT WHAT, IN TURKEY'S REJECTION, STEMS FROM RACISM, EXCESSIVE NATIONALISM OR XENOPHOBIA. THIS IS THE EASIEST, AND IT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED BY ALL DEMOCRATIC AND PRO-EUROPEAN PROTAGONISTS IN THE DEBATE ON TURKEY. LATER IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO CLARIFY WHAT ARE VIABLE PROJECTS FOR EUROPE. IN THIS RESPECT TURKEY MUST NOT SERVE AS THE SCARECROW FOR SOME AND THE FAVORITE CHILD FOR OTHERS. IT IS NOT THE ROLE OF THOSE WHO TRULY WANT TO BUILD EUROPE TO GIVE GOOD OR BAD MARKS TO TURKEY. THEIR JOB IS TO CLEARLY DEFINE WHAT KIND OF EUROPE THEY WANT. IT WILL BE UP TO TURKEY LATER TO CONFORM TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CLARIFIED EUROPEAN PROJECT, IF IT STILL WANTS TO." WOLFF